

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/720,505	KUECHLER ET AL.
	Examiner In Suk Bullock	Art Unit 1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to RCE/Remarks filed 2/5/2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-62.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/5/2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicants are correct in that the Examiner erred in the Advisory Action mailed 1/5/2007 regarding new matter for the "and a combination thereof." The support is found in the specification as originally filed. The Examiner regrets the error.

The Applicants argue "the amendments did not make the claim broader since the limitation was present in the dependent claim 2, which by definition is more narrow than claim 1." The Examiner respectfully disagrees because the original limitation in dependent claim 2 contained two elements in the Markush group – methanol and ethanol - and not three elements as recited in the amendment – methanol, ethanol, and a combination thereof. Thus, broadening of claim 2 when attempting to include claim 2 subject matter into claim 1. The element "a combination thereof" was never presented in any of the claims until after the Final Rejection. Therefore, the Examiner properly refused entry of 11/30/2006 Amendment.

Regarding the argument that the amendment created new issue, the Examiner stands firm on that ground. As stated above, "a combination thereof" was not presented prior to the Final Rejection and, therefore, is a new issue. Assuming the Applicants argument that a "search that targeted 'methanol or ethanol' as oxygenated feed would surely return references that contained disclosure of both" does not necessarily mean that they would disclose "a combination thereof" which is entirely a different element. Would applicants not agree that a combination of 1-butene and isobutene is different from 1-butene and isobutene individually?

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David Weisberg on March 30, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 6, after "condensing" inserted – in a condenser --; and

Claim 18, line 2, deleted "said" and replaced with – an --.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the applied prior art of record to Kuechler et al. (6,482,998) does not disclose the claimed step of providing a liquid, oxygenate-rich stream comprising at least 20 wt% oxygenate into a fractionation tower.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to In Suk Bullock whose telephone number is 571-272-5954. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

J. Bullock
I.B.



Glenn Caldaro
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700